

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please write the claims to read as follows:

1 1. - 35. (Cancelled)

1 36. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

2 detecting a failure of a primary virtual port on a ~~first~~-physical port of a first server,
3 wherein the primary virtual port has an identity;

4 activating a secondary virtual port on a ~~second~~the physical port of the first server,
5 the ~~second~~-physical port adapted to support two or more virtual ports that share the
6 ~~second~~-physical port;

7 configuring the secondary virtual port with the identity of the failed primary
8 virtual port; and

9 servicing one or more storage devices owned by the first server through the
10 secondary virtual port on the first server.

1 37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein detecting the failure is in
2 response to initiating a failover procedure during a scheduled maintenance on the first
3 server.

1 38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein detecting a failure in the first
2 server further comprises: detecting a lack of a heartbeat signal from the first server at a
3 second server.

1 39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

2 determining that the primary virtual port has been recovered;
3 terminating service requests to the secondary virtual port;

4 deactivating the secondary virtual port; and
5 servicing the storage devices owned by the first server through the primary virtual
6 port.

1 40. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including program instructions
2 when executed operable to:

3 detecting a failure of a primary virtual port on a ~~first~~-physical port of a first server,
4 wherein the primary virtual port has an identity;

5 activating a secondary virtual port on ~~a second-the~~ physical port of the first server,
6 the ~~second~~-physical port adapted to support two or more virtual ports that share the
7 ~~second~~-physical port;

8 configuring the secondary virtual port with the identity of the failed primary
9 virtual port; and

10 servicing one or more storage devices owned by the first server through the
11 secondary virtual port on the first server.

Please add the following new claims 41 *et seq*:

1 41. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein configuring the secondary virtual port further
2 comprises:

3 setting a node name of the secondary virtual port to a node name of the primary
4 virtual port; and

5 setting a port name of the secondary virtual port to a port name of the primary
6 virtual port.

- 1 42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the storage network comprises a Fibre
 - 2 Channel (FC) network and wherein the node name comprises a FC World Wide Node
 - 3 Name.
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- 1 43. (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising processing, by the first server, data
 - 2 access requests directed to the secondary virtual port.
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- 1 44. (New) The method of claim 43 further comprising processing, by the first server, data
 - 2 access requests directed to a third virtual port, the third virtual port also associated with
 - 3 the physical port.
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- 1 45. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the secondary virtual port is in standby mode
 - 2 prior to the failure on the primary virtual port.
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- 1 46. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 40 wherein configuring the
 - 2 secondary virtual port further comprises:
 - 3 setting a node name of the secondary virtual port to a node name of the primary
 - 4 virtual port; and
 - 5 setting a port name of the secondary virtual port to a port name of the primary
 - 6 virtual port.
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- 1 47. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 46 wherein the storage network
 - 2 comprises a Fibre Channel (FC) network and wherein the node name comprises a FC
 - 3 World Wide Node Name.

- 1 48. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 40 further comprising processing, by
2 the first server, data access requests directed to the secondary virtual port.

- 1 49. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 48 further comprising processing, by
2 the storage server, data access requests directed to a third virtual port, the third virtual
3 port is associated with the physical port.

- 1 50. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the secondary virtual
2 port is in standby mode prior to the failure on the primary virtual port.

- 1 51. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the secondary virtual
2 port is in standby mode prior to the failure on the primary virtual port.

- 1 52. (New) A storage server, comprising
2 a physical port configured to communicate with a client over a network;
3 a plurality virtual ports associated with the physical port, wherein there is at least
4 one primary virtual port and a secondary virtual port; and
5 a storage operating system executed by a processor, the processor configured to:
6 (i) detect a failure in the primary virtual port, the primary virtual port having an identity,
7 (ii) in response to detecting the failure, activate the secondary virtual port, (iii) configure
8 the secondary virtual port with the identity of the failed primary virtual port, and (iv)
9 service one or more storage devices owned by the storage server through the secondary
10 virtual port on the storage server.

- 1 53. (New) The storage server of claim 52, wherein the secondary virtual port is in
2 standby mode prior to the failure on the primary virtual port.

- 1 54. (New) The storage server of claim 52, wherein the identity includes a node name and
- 2 a port name of the primary virtual port.